AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-61 (**Cancelled**)

62.(New) A method for controlling channel changes in television or digital radio having a tuner or receiver, the method involving monitoring channel change commands received from a user over a zapping session during which channels are discarded; identifying discarded channels; and preventing the tuner or receiver from returning to the discarded channels during the rest of the zapping session or unless it is determined that a programme transmitted on the discarded channel has changed, wherein the step of identifying discarded channels involves monitoring a time for which the viewer viewed the channel and on the basis of this, determining whether the channel is discarded.

63.(New) A method as claimed in claim 62, comprising setting a determining whether the channel is to be discarded.

64.(New) A method as claimed in claim 63, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at most the viewing time threshold, then the channel is discarded.

65.(New) A method as claimed in claim 64, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at most the viewing time threshold, then the channel is retained.

66.(New) A method as claimed in claim 64, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at least the viewing time threshold, then the channel is discarded.

67.(New) A method as claimed in claim 64, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at least the set viewing time threshold, then the channel is retained.

68.(New) A method as claimed in claim 64, comprising receiving a user input indicative of the time set.

69.(New) A method as claimed in claim 62, comprising determining whether a programme on a particular channel has changed.

70.(New) A method as claimed in claim 69, wherein the step of determining whether a programme has changed involves comparing programme identifiers for the previously viewed programme and the currently viewed programme.

71.(New) A method as claimed in claim 69, wherein the step of determining whether a programme on a particular channel has changed involves monitoring real time; identifying programme scheduling information for a particular channel and using the scheduling information and real time to determine whether there is a change in the currently broadcast programme.

72.(New) A method as claimed in claim 62, involving receiving a control signal from the user that indicates that a channel zapping session is starting, this signal prompting the start of the step of monitoring the channels zapped to and those discarded.

73.(New) A method as claimed claim 62, wherein the method involves receiving from a user a signal that is indicative of a command to stop the channel zapping session.

74.(New) A method as claimed in claim 62, comprising terminating the channel zapping session if no channel change commands are received over a pre-determined time.

75.(New) A method as claimed in claim 62, comprising identifying an advertisement,. temporarily excluding the channel that the advertisement is being shown on from the pool of available channels and reintroducing the channel when the advertisement is finished.

76.(New) A method as claimed in claim 62, comprising identifying an advertisement and showing material, such as a video clip or text, which is associated with the programme that is to be shown when the advertisement is finished.

77.(New) A method as claimed in claim 76, further involving recording a portion of the programme shown immediately preceding the advertisement and displaying this to the user during the advertisement.

78.(New) A method as claimed in claim 77, comprising carrying out the step of recording for all available channels.

79.(New) A method as claimed in claim 62, comprising monitoring programme changes; identifying the most recently provided or broadcast programme and presenting the most recently provided or broadcast programme to the user in response to a channel change command.

80.(New) A system for controlling channel changes in television or digital radio having a tuner or receiver, the system comprising means for monitoring channel change commands received from a user over a zapping session during which channels are discarded; means for identifying discarded channels; and means for preventing the tuner or receiver from tuning to the discarded channels during the rest of the zapping session or unless it is determined that a programme transmitted on the discarded channel has changed, wherein the means for identifying discarded channels comprise means for

monitoring a time for which the viewer viewed the channel and on the basis of this, determining whether the channel is discarded.

81.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, comprising means for setting a viewing time threshold for use by the means for determining whether the channel is to be discarded.

82.(New) A system as claimed in claim 81, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at most the viewing time threshold, then the channel is discarded.

83.(New) A system as claimed in claim 81, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at most the viewing time threshold, then the channel is retained.

84.(New) A system as claimed in claim 81, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at least the set viewing time threshold, then the channel is discarded.

85.(New) A system as claimed in claim 81, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at least the set viewing time threshold, then the channel is retained.

86.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, comprising means for receiving a user input indicative of the times set.

87.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, comprising means for determining whether a programme on a particular channel has changed.

88.(New) A system as claimed in claim 87, wherein the means for determining whether a programme has changed comprise means for comparing programme identifiers for the previously viewed channel and the programme currently available.

89.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, wherein the means for determining whether a programme on a particular channel has changed are operable to monitor real time; identify programme scheduling information for a particular channel and use the scheduling information and real time to determine whether there is a change in the currently broadcast programme.

90.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, comprising means for receiving a control signal from the user indicative of the start of a channel zapping session, means for recognizing the signal as a zapping session identifier and activating the means for monitoring the channels zapped to and those discarded in response to the zapping command.

91.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, comprising means for receiving from a user a signal that is indicative of a command to stop the channel zapping session.

92.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, comprising means for terminating the channel zapping session if no channel change commands are received over a pre-determined time.

93.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, comprising a display for showing the programmes on.

94.(New) A system as claimed in claim 80, being adapted to receive channel change commands from a remote control.

95.(New) A computer program, preferably on a data carrier or some other computer readable medium, for controlling channel changes in a television or digital radio having a tuner or receiver, the computer program having code or instructions for monitoring channel

change commands received from a user over a zapping session during which channels are discarded; identifying discarded channels; and preventing the tuner or receiver from tuning to the discarded channels during the rest of the zapping session or unless it is determined that a programme transmitted on the discarded channel has changed, wherein the code or instructions for determining discarded channels are operable to monitor a time for which the viewer viewed the channel and on the basis of this, determine whether the channel is discarded.

96.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 95, comprising code or instructions for setting a viewing time threshold for use by the means for determining whether the channel is to be discarded.

97.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 96, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at most the viewing time threshold, then the channel is discarded.

98.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 96, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at most the viewing time threshold, then the channel is retained.

99.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 96, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at least the set viewing time threshold, then the channel is discarded.

100.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 96, wherein if the monitored viewing time is at least the set viewing time threshold, then the channel is retained.

101.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 95, comprising code or instructions for receiving a user input indicative of the times.

102.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 95, comprising code or instructions for determining whether a programme on a particular channel has changed.

103.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 102, wherein the code or instructions for determining whether a program has changed are operable to compare program identifiers for the previously viewed program and the program currently available.

104.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 95, wherein the code or instructions for identifying whether a programme on a particular channel has changed are operable to monitor real time; identify programme scheduling information for a particular channel and using the scheduling information and real time to determine whether there is a change in the currently broadcast programme.

105.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 95, comprising code or instructions for receiving a control signal from the user that indicates that a channel zapping session is starting, this signal prompting the start of the step of monitoring the channels zapped to and those discarded.

106.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 95, wherein the code or instructions are operable to receive from a user a signal that is indicative of a command to stop the channel zapping session.

107.(New) A computer program as claimed in claim 95, comprising code or instructions for terminating the channel zapping session if no channel change commands are received over a pre-determined time.

108.(New) A set top box that includes a system or computer program as defined in claim 95.

109.(New) A television system that includes a system or computer program as defined in claim 95.

110.(New A digital radio that includes a system or computer program as defined in claim 95.